

BOOK REVIEWS

DISEASES TRANSMITTED FROM ANIMALS TO MAN. By Thomas G. Hull, Ph.D., Director, The Scientific Exhibit, American Medical Association, and various contributors. Third edition. Illustrated. 1947. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher. Price \$10.50.

Interest in the infections of domesticated mammals and birds and in those carried by animals and insects in nature and transmitted to man has greatly increased in recent years. With this heightened interest has come a growing appreciation of their importance in medical science. These trends, as well as significant newer knowledge accrued during the war years on the epidemiology and control of such infections, made necessary the revision of this well-known book and the issuing of a third edition. With the aid of 14 specialists and consultants in the field of comparative pathology and animal and insect ecology, the vast field has been condensed to 550 pages filled with factual data. Nearly every chapter has been revised and some have been re-written and brought up to date. Unfortunately, references in some chapters are neither recent nor well chosen.

The new chapters on "Arthropod-Borne Encephalitides and Q Fever" condense in readable form a great deal of information which is scattered in journals and publications not readily accessible to the physician. The chapters on jungle fever, typhus and Rocky Mountain spotted fevers and lymphocytic choriomeningitis, written by well-known specialists, are admirably informative. In future editions the chapter on Brucellosis should be subjected to critical review before publication. The occupational health hazard to the farmer and to his family, and the enormous economic losses caused persons engaged in animal husbandry by bovine and porcine brucellosis deserve greater emphasis. The section on "Laboratory Diagnosis" details the allergic skin test and the opsonocytaphagic test without discussing the imperfections and misuse of these tests. On page 207 the statement that compulsory antirabies *treatment* of dogs "has been gaining in favor" should be corrected to read the "voluntary prophylactic vaccination of dogs" is highly recommended. The paragraph on histoplasmosis (pages 316-317) is incomplete. Recommendations regarding the prevention of endemic relapsing fever (page 394) could not effectively be carried out, since the various stages of the *Ornithodoros* ticks rarely remain on human clothing. As a summary reference, the symposium publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science No. 18, 1942, should be mentioned. Despite these minor defects, this new edition should replace the old one as a much used reference book on the shelves of every private and public medical library.

SYNOPSIS OF OBSTETRICS. By Jennings C. Litzberg, B.Sc., M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Minnesota Medical School. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1947, third edition. 416 pages, with 157 illustrations. Price \$5.50.

The third edition of Litzberg's "Synopsis" is only ten pages longer than the second edition (1943) and this slight increase in bulk results almost entirely from the insertion of a little essay on the Rh factor, written by R. W. Koucky, a Minneapolis pathologist. The format of this particular section differs considerably from that of the rest of the volume and the material is presented in a way which might well confuse the uninitiated reader. Later in the book,

erythroblastosis is described in three different sections but there is no suggestion of a relationship to Rh incompatibility.

Discussion of the biologic tests for pregnancy has been enlarged somewhat to include details of the mouse, rabbit, frog and rat tests; and an endorsement of the colostrum skin test of Falls, which appeared in the second edition, has wisely been deleted. The material on analgesia and anesthesia has been expanded by adding a few quotations from periodical literature, but strangely enough any mention of local anesthesia for delivery has been omitted from this edition and one finds no reference to saddle-block spinal techniques which are now so popular in some areas. In view of the modern trend toward early ambulation postpartum, the statement that the patient "may safely sit up in a chair in a week" probably requires revision. The discussion of syphilis in pregnancy should be brought up to date, with mention of therapeutic plans which include penicillin. Similarly, there is no reference to the use of penicillin for acute mastitis.

With the exception of these minor faults, this synopsis continues to provide a sound presentation of the time honored fundamentals of obstetrics and should be most useful for refresher purposes. As in both previous editions, somewhat more space than seems necessary is devoted to subjects which the author had personally investigated, such as myomas in pregnancy, missed abortion, and ectopic gestation. Considerable paper could have been saved by reducing the excessive use of the outline form of presentation, but perhaps to some readers this would seem to be a virtue rather than a fault.

DEVELOPMENTAL DIAGNOSIS, Normal and Abnormal Child Development. By Arnold Gessell, M.D., and Catherine S. Amatruda, M.D. Second edition. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. \$7.50.

"Developmental Diagnosis" in its second edition shows a healthy growth and expansion of the subject. It is a book that every physician whose practice includes children should not only be familiar with through reading it once but he should have it at his elbow for quick reference at all times.

The book is divided into three parts and an appendix. Part one deals with the normal child and his developmental pattern, giving the details of examination and the findings at the selected periods, four weeks, sixteen weeks, and so on.

Part two is devoted to defects and deviations from the normal and includes not only the problems of the subnormal but those of convulsive disorders, blindness, deafness, precocity, the practical and pertinent problems of retardation due to environmental factors and the problems of adoption—the accurate rating of children in situational difficulties, etc.

Part three deals with the protection of early child development, diagnosis and guidance.

The appendix includes details of techniques, charts, equipment, cinematic case studies, a reading list and a chapter on professional training for developmental pediatrics.

Just as a physician cannot be an authority on the pathological unless he knows the normal in the somatic, so he cannot hope to guide the mental and emotional life unless he is familiar with its normal developmental pattern.